(d) Indian companies which participated in the fair reported that they received orders worth Rs. 1.00 crore on the spot and business under negotiation was worth Rs. 7.00 crores.

(e) No such fair has been organised in any State Capital of North Eastern Region.

(f) and (g) International fairs are being organised in places where proper infrastructure and facilities are available and the concerned industrial sector is concentrated. There is no immediate plan to organise international fairs in North Eastern States. The fair in Calcutta serves the North Eastern States as well.

India's share in Global Trade in Spices

3119. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the largest producer of spices in the world but its share is 11 per cent. of the value of the total global trade in spices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the future of spices exports depends on sufficient production of quality spices at competitive prices; and

(d) if so, what steps are under consideration in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) India is the largest producer of spices with an annual production of 20 lakh tonnes. It's share in the world trade in value and quantity terms is 11 per cent. and 39 per cent. respectively. The main reason for low share in value terms is limited production of high high value prices and import of value spices.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) To enhance production and improve quality of spices, a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices is being implemented in the VIII Plan with an outlay of Rs. 125 crores under which, measures such as, production and distribution of quality planting material, area expansion, promotion of plant protection measures, establishment of demonstration plots and distribution of minikits are being undertaken.

Other measures aimed at improving the quality of spices includes:

(i) grant of Spice House Certificate to manufacturer/exporter possessing necessary infrastructure in terms of facilities for cleaning, processing, grading, packaging, warehousing and quality assurance;

(ii) providing financial assistance for setting up quality testing laboratories including monitoring of pesticides residues, and for acquiring ISO 9000 accreditation;

(iii) Monitoring of quality by the Spices Board by testing samples obtained from different producing and marketing centres; and

(iv) imparting training on quality upgradation to growers and exporters.

Claims paid by BCGC

3120. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the nature of claims paid by the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India and the claims given by the Corporation during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the names of the exporters on whose behalf claims were given during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 and amount of claims given;